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Energy & Technology Committee
Public Hearing Testimony
Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Good Morning Senator John Fonfara, Senator Robert Duff, Senator Kevin Witkos, Representative Vickie Nardello, Representative William Tong, Representative Sean Williams and members of the Energy & Technology Committee. I would like to thank you for scheduling S.B. 586, *An Act Concerning A Collinsville Hydro-Electric Facility*, for a public hearing today.

The Upper and Lower Collinsville Dams have a rich history with the Collinsville community. Since their construction in the 1800's and until the disablement of the powerhouses in the 1960's, these dams provided a productive and efficient source of power for the community. Unfortunately, with the sale of the Collins Company complex, the powerhouses were eventually disabled and their power generating capability was lost. Today the dams rest as an unused resource, which I believe we must turn to our advantage, especially in this era of critical clean energy needs.

Collinsville is not alone in its efforts to re-institute the use of these dams for power generation, as we have been working cooperatively with the Towns of Avon and Burlington. Together we have been able to obtain a preliminary license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to re-establish these two facilities. With Congressman Murphy's proposed legislation and support, we anticipate the issuance of a FERC final license. This will expedite the licensing period and allow us to begin construction within a year.

What we need now is a commitment from the state to make sure this project moves forward and is completed in a timely manner. I wholeheartedly support the towns request, as stated below, and would be happy to discuss this proposal with any member of the committee at any time.

The Town of Canton requests that legislation be enacted this session to authorize the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to execute an agreement without any compensation to the State of Connecticut or additional costs to the towns of Canton, Avon and Burlington for use by or liability to those towns that allows them to;

- a) Enter upon and conduct physical examinations and studies of the Upper and Lower Collinsville dams and associated structures, including but not limited to power houses and/or gate houses on the Farmington River for determining the feasibility of using the dams and associated structures for hydroelectric generations;
- b) Install, operate and maintain hydroelectric generating facilities and associated appurtenances including fish ladders at the dams and
- c) Exercise flow control of the water at the dams to maximize hydroelectric generation while maintaining minimum flows required by federal and state regulatory agencies.

Thank you for your consideration.